

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan (FL-13) has urged President Obama to use a military tribunal to prosecute Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the mastermind behind the 9-11 terrorist attacks. In a letter to the President, Buchanan wrote, “A military tribunal is by far the best venue with which to handle his case, not the civilian court system.”

The Justice Department began using military tribunals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to formally prosecute two al-Qaeda terrorists, Omar Khadr and Ibrahim al-Qusi. A military tribunal sentenced al-Qusi to a 14-year prison term for his crimes, while the tribunal for Omar Khadr has not yet been completed.

“The current system of military tribunals treats accused terrorists fairly while protecting the United States’ national security,” wrote Buchanan. “The use of such tribunals can be expanded to include Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

“Furthermore, there is good reason to believe that using a civilian court might give Khalid Sheikh Mohammed considerable attention and publicity that he could use as a platform to make a mockery of his trial, our legal system, and the U.S. Nothing would be gained from such an unseemly spectacle.”

A New York Daily News editorial recently observed, military tribunals “protect fundamental rights and allow legal challenges while protecting classified information.”

“Using a military tribunal for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has the extra benefit of not imposing massive financial, logistical, and security costs on the taxpayers of New York City, the State of New York or the federal government,” added Buchanan.

“I urge you to conclude that using a military tribunal to prosecute Khalid Sheikh Mohammed upholds the core principles of the United States’ legal system while also protecting our national security,” concluded the Congressman.